American Studies- Songs from the Depression

Brother can you spare a dime

[They used to tell me I was building a dream](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882255)  
[And so I followed the mob](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882288)  
[When there was earth to plow or guns to bear  
I was always there, right on the job](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882295)  
  
[They used to tell me I was building a dream  
With peace and glory ahead](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882357)  
[Why should I be standing in line  
Just waiting for bread?](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882365)  
  
[Once I built a railroad, I made it run  
Made it race against time  
Once I built a railroad, now it's done](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882409)  
[Brother, can you spare a dime?](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882416)  
  
[Once I built a tower up to the sun  
Brick and rivet and lime  
Once I built a tower, now it's done](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882426)  
Brother, can you spare a dime?  
  
[Once in khaki suits, gee, we looked swell](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882444)  
[Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell  
And I was the kid with the drum](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882463)  
  
[Say, don't you remember? They called me 'Al'  
It was 'Al' all the time  
Why don't you remember? I'm your pal](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882494)  
[Say buddy, can you spare a dime?](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882487)  
  
Once in khaki suits, ah, gee, we looked swell  
[Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell  
And I was the kid with the drum](https://genius.com/Bing-crosby-brother-can-you-spare-a-dime-lyrics#note-4882514)  
  
Oh, say, don't you remember? They called me 'Al'  
It was 'Al' all the time  
Say, don't you remember? I'm your pal  
Buddy, can you spare a dime?

2. Pennies From Heaven (1936)

(w) John Burke (m) Arthur Johnston (R) Bing Crosby (CR) Curran Reichert

Verse: A long time ago, a million years B. C.  
The best things in life were absolutely free.  
But no one appreciated a sky that was always blue;  
And no one congratulated a moon that was always new.  
So it was planned that they would vanish now and then.  
And you must pay before you get them back again.  
That’s what storms were made for.  
And you shouldn’t be afraid for

Chorus: Ev’rytime it rains, it rains pennies from heaven.  
Don’t you know each cloud contains pennies from heaven?  
You’ll find your fortune falling all over town.  
Be sure that your umbrella is upside down.  
Trade them for a package of sunshine and flowers.  
If you want the things you love, you must have showers.  
So when you hear it thunder, don’t run under a tree.  
There’ll be pennies from heaven for you and me.

3Let's Face The Music And Dance lyrics

There may be trouble ahead

But while there's moonlight and music

And love and romance

Let's face the music and dance

Before the fiddlers have fled

Before they ask us to pay the bill

And while we still

Have the chance

Let's face the music and dance

Soon

We'll be without the moon

Humming a diff'rent tune

And then

There may be teardrops to shed

So while there's moonlight and music

And love and romance

Let's face the music and dance

Dance

Let's face the music and dance

4"We're in the Money (The Gold Diggers Song)" as written by and Al/warren Dubin....

We're in the money.  
We're in the money.  
We've got a lot of what it takes to get along.  
We're in the money.  
The skies are sunny.  
Old man Depression, you are through.  
You've done us wrong.  
  
We never see a headline about a breadline today.  
And when we see the landlord, we can look that guy right in the eye.  
We're in the money.  
Come on, my honey,  
Let's spend it, lend it, send it rolling along.  
  
Gone are my blues and gone are my tears.  
I've got good news to shout in your ears.  
The silver dollar has returned to the fold.  
With silver you can turn your dreams to gold.  
  
We're in the money.  
We're in the money.  
We've got a lot of what it takes to get along.  
We're in the money.  
The skies are sunny.  
Old man Depression, you are through.  
You've done us wrong.  
  
We never see a headline about a breadline today.  
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Let's spend it, lend it, send it rolling along.  
  
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We're in the money.  
We've got a lot of what it takes to get along.  
We're in the money.  
The skies are sunny.  
Old man Depression, you are through  
You've done us wrong.  
  
We never see a headline about a breadline today.  
And when we see the landlord, we can look that guy right in the eye.  
We're in the money.  
Come on, my honey,  
Let's spend it, lend it, send it rolling along.

5. Gotta Right To Sing The Blues

I gotta right to sing the blues  
I gotta right to feel low-down  
I gotta right to hang around  
Down around the river  
  
A certain gal in this old town  
Keeps draggin' my poor (old) heart around  
All I see for me is misery  
  
I gotta right to sing the blues  
I gotta right to moan and sigh  
I gotta right to sit and cry  
Down around the river  
  
I know the deep blue sea  
Will soon be callin' me  
It must be love; say what you choose  
I gotta right to sing the blues

Songwriters: ARLEN, HAROLD / KOEHLER, TED

Gotta Right To Sing The Blues lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.,

6. [Harold Arlen](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/h/harold+arlen/) – Stormy Weather Lyrics

Don't know why  
There's no sun up in the sky  
Stormy weather  
Since my gal and I ain't together  
Keeps raining all the time  
Life is bare  
Gloom and misery everywhere  
Stormy weather  
Just can't get my poor old self together  
  
I'm weary all the time  
Every time  
So weary all of the time  
When she went away  
The blues walked in and then they met me  
If she stays away  
That old rocking chair's bound to get me  
  
All I do is pray  
The lord above will let me  
Just walk in that sun again   
Can't go on   
Everything I had is gone  
Stormy Weather  
Since my gal and I ain't together  
Keeps raining all the time   
Keeps raining all of the time

Songwriters: HAROLD ARLEN, TED KOEHLER

Stormy Weather lyrics © BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT US, LLC, S.A. MUSIC

**7. You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby Lyrics**

You must have been a beautiful baby  
You must have been a wonderful child  
When you were only starting to go to kindergarten  
I bet you drove the little boys wild  
And when it came to winning blue ribbons  
You must have shown the other kids how  
I can see the judges' eyes as they handed you the prize  
I bet you made the cutest bow  
Oh you must've been a beautiful baby  
'Cause baby look at you now

Does your mother realize  
The stork delivered quite a prize  
The day he left you on the family tree?  
Does your dad appreciate  
That you're merely super great  
The miracle of any century?  
If they don't just send them both to me

You must have been a beautiful baby  
You must have been a wonderful child  
When you were only starting to go to kindergarten  
I bet you drove the little boys wild  
And when it came to winning blue ribbons  
You must have shown the other kids how  
I can see the judges' eyes as they handed you the prize  
I bet you made the cutest bow  
Oh you must've been a beautiful baby  
'Cause baby look at you now

Songwriters  
THOMAS WILLIAM DUNN, JOHN H. MERCER, HARRY WARREN

**8.** [**Ella Fitzgerald – Strike Up The Band**](http://songmeanings.com/songs/view/3530822107858845216/)

Let the drums roll out  
Let the trumpet call  
While the people shout  
"strike up the band"  
  
Hear the cymbals ring  
Callin' one and all  
To the martial swing,  
Strike up the band  
  
There is work to be done, to be done  
There's a war to be won, to be won  
Come, you son of a son of a gun,  
Take your stand  
  
Fall in line, yea a bow  
Come along, let's go  
Hey, leader, strike up the band!  
  
There is work to be done, to be done  
There's a war to be won, to be won  
Come, you son of a son of a gun,  
Take your stand  
  
Fall in line, yea a bow  
Come on, let's go  
Hey, leader, strike up  
Hey, leader, strike up  
Hey, leader, strike up the band

**9. It's Only a Paper Moon Lyrics**

**Billie Holiday & Sarah Vaughan**

Say, it's only a paper moon  
Sailing over a cardboard sea  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Yes, it's only a canvas sky  
Hanging over a muslin tree  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Without your love  
It's a honky tonk parade  
Without your love  
It's a melody played in a penny arcade

It's a Barnum and Bailey world  
Just as phony as it can be  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Say, it's only a paper moon  
Sailing over a cardboard sea  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Yes, it's only a canvas sky  
Hanging over a muslin tree  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Without your love  
It's a honky-tonk parade  
Without your love  
It's a melody played in a penny arcade

It's a Barnum and Bailey world  
Just as phony as it can be  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

It's phony it's plain to see  
How happy I would be  
If you believed in me

Songwriters  
ROSE, BILLY/HARBURG, E.Y./ARLEN, HAROLD

10. **Will The Circle Be Unbroken Lyrics**

I was standing by my window  
On one cold and cloudy day  
When I saw that hearse come rolling  
For to carry my mother away  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky  
  
I said to that undertaker  
Undertaker please drive slow  
For this lady you are carrying  
Lord, I hate to see her go  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky  
  
Oh, I followed close behind her  
Tried to hold up and be brave  
But I could not hide my sorrow  
When they laid her in the grave  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky  
  
I went back home, my home was lonesome  
Missed my mother, she was gone  
All of my brothers, sisters crying  
What a home so sad and lone  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky  
  
We sang the songs of childhood  
Hymns of faith that made us strong  
Ones that mother Maybelle taught us  
Hear the angels sing along  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky  
  
Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home a-waiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky

Songwriters: CARTER, A.P.

11. **In the Big Rock Candy Mountains lyrics - Harry McClintock**

One evening as the sun went down

And the jungle fires were burning,

Down the track came a hobo hiking,

And he said, "Boys, I'm not turning

I'm headed for a land that's far away

Besides the crystal fountains

So come with me, we'll go and see

The Big Rock Candy Mountains

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains,

There's a land that's fair and bright,

Where the handouts grow on bushes

And you sleep out every night.

Where the boxcars all are empty

And the sun shines every day

And the birds and the bees

And the cigarette trees

The lemonade springs

Where the bluebird sings

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains

All the cops have wooden legs

And the bulldogs all have rubber teeth

And the hens lay soft-boiled eggs

The farmers' trees are full of fruit

And the barns are full of hay

Oh I'm bound to go

Where there ain't no snow

Where the rain don't fall

The winds don't blow

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains

You never change your socks

And the little streams of alcohol

Come trickling down the rocks

The brakemen have to tip their hats

And the railway bulls are blind

There's a lake of stew

And of whiskey too

You can paddle all around it

In a big canoe

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains,

The jails are made of tin.

And you can walk right out again,

As soon as you are in.

There ain't no short-handled shovels,

No axes, saws nor picks,

I'm bound to stay

Where you sleep all day,

Where they hung the jerk

That invented work

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains.

....

I'll see you all this coming fall

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains

**12. Joe Hill Lyrics**

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,  
Alive as you and me  
Says I But Joe, you're ten years dead  
I never died said he,  
I never died said he.  
The Copper Bosses killed you Joe,  
They shot you Joe says I

Takes more than guns to kill a man  
Says Joe I didn't die  
Says Joe I didn't die  
And standing there as big as life  
And smiling with his eyes

Says Joe What they can never kill  
Went on to organize,  
Went on to organize  
From San Diego up to Maine,  
In every mine and mill,  
Where working-men defend there rights,  
It's there you find Joe Hill,  
It's there you find Joe Hill  
I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,  
Alive as you and me.

Says I But Joe, you're ten years dead  
I never died said he,  
I never died said he

Songwriters  
OCHS, PHIL

**13. Solidarity Forever**

When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run

There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun

Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one

But the union makes us strong

Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever

Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong!

It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade

Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid

Now we stand outcast and starving 'mid the wonders we have made

But the union makes us strong

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn

But without our brain and muscle, not a single wheel can turn

We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn

That the union makes us strong

And of course, more verses have been added:

It is we that wash the dishes, scrub the floors and chase the dirt

Feed the kids and send them off to school and then we go to work

Where we work for half wages for a boss that likes to flirt

But the union makes us strong.

**14. Hard Travelin'**

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)'

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

I've been doin' some hard [ramblin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ramblin)'

way down the road

Hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' hard v[ramblin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ramblin)'

hard [drinkin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/drinkin)' hard [gamblin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/gamblin)'

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been doin' some hard rock [minin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/minin)'

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

I've been [leanin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/leanin)' on a [pressure](http://www.definitions.net/definition/pressure) [drill](http://www.definitions.net/definition/drill)

way down the road

Well the [hammer](http://www.definitions.net/definition/hammer) [flying](http://www.definitions.net/definition/flying)

and the air hose [suckin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/suckin)'

And six feet of mud,

I sure been [muckin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/muckin)'

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been [workin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/workin)' that [Pittsburgh](http://www.definitions.net/definition/Pittsburgh) [steel](http://www.definitions.net/definition/steel)

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

I've been [pourin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/pourin)' that red-hot slag

way down the road

I been [blastin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/blastin)'

I've been [firin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/firin)'

I've been [pourin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/pourin)'

red-hot iron

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been [layin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/layin)' in a hard rock jail

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

I've been [layin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/layin)' out [ninety](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ninety) days

way down the road

The [darned](http://www.definitions.net/definition/darned) old [judge](http://www.definitions.net/definition/judge) he said to me

it's [ninety](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ninety) days for [vagrancy](http://www.definitions.net/definition/vagrancy)

And I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been [walkin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/walkin)' that [Lincoln](http://www.definitions.net/definition/Lincoln) [highway](http://www.definitions.net/definition/highway)

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

And I've been [hittin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/hittin)' that [sixty](http://www.definitions.net/definition/sixty) six

way down the road

Got a [heavy](http://www.definitions.net/definition/heavy) load

got a [worried](http://www.definitions.net/definition/worried) mind

I'm a' [lookin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/lookin)' for a [woman](http://www.definitions.net/definition/woman)

that's hard to find

And I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)'

I've been [havin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/havin)' some hard [ramblin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ramblin)'

I've been doin' some hard [traveling](http://www.definitions.net/definition/traveling)

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been [ridin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ridin)' them fast [passengers](http://www.definitions.net/definition/passengers)

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

I've been [hittin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/hittin)' them flat [wheelers](http://www.definitions.net/definition/wheelers)

way down the road

I've been [ridin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/ridin)' them

[blind](http://www.definitions.net/definition/blind) [passengers](http://www.definitions.net/definition/passengers)

dead [enders](http://www.definitions.net/definition/enders)

[kickin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/kickin)' up [cinders](http://www.definitions.net/definition/cinders)

I've been doin' some hard [travelin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/travelin)' Lord

I've been doin' some hard [harvestin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/harvestin)'

I [thought](http://www.definitions.net/definition/thought) you [knowed](http://www.definitions.net/definition/knowed)

From [North](http://www.definitions.net/definition/North) [Dakota](http://www.definitions.net/definition/Dakota) to [Kansas](http://www.definitions.net/definition/Kansas) City

way down the road

[Cuttin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/Cuttin)' that [wheat](http://www.definitions.net/definition/wheat) and

[stackin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/stackin)' that hay

just [tryin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/tryin)' to make 'bout a [dollar](http://www.definitions.net/definition/dollar) a day

And I've been doin' some hard [harvestin](http://www.definitions.net/definition/harvestin)' Lord